

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/024,462

Examiner

Stephen J. Cherry

Applicant(s)

PADMANABHAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11-3-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT, Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-23 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The independent claim 1 recites "a plurality of sensors for detecting agents in an area and generating a signal comprising a probability of accuracy; a controller communicatively coupled to the sensors for receiving the signals from the sensors wherein the controller utilizes an evidence accrual method to combine probabilities of detection provided by the sensors to determine whether such agents are a threat with a greater probability than any individual sensor". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

The independent claim 10 recites "a plurality of sensors for detecting agents in multiple areas and generating a signal comprising a probability of accuracy; a plurality of integrating controllers communicatively coupled to selected groups of sensors protecting each area for receiving the signals from the sensors to determine whether such agents are a threat to a respective area with a greater probability than any individual sensor". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

The independent claim 13 recites "a plurality of sensors for detecting agents in multiple areas and generating a signal comprising a probability of accuracy; a plurality of integrating controllers communicatively coupled to selected groups of sensors protecting each area for receiving the signals from the sensors to determine whether such agents are a threat to a respective area with a greater probability than any

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individual sensor". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

The independent claim 16 recites "collecting information from sensors comprising [regarding] the conditional probability of detection of biological agents; combining the information from the sensors to increase the accuracy of the overall probability of the detection of a threat". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

The independent claim 21 recites "determining a probability of detection for each of multiple sensors for a given threat; generating an algorithm for decision fusion for each of multiple local groups of sensors; and generating an algorithm for decision fusion for a combination of the multiple local groups of sensors". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

U.S. Patent 6,289,328 to Shaffer discloses, in figure 3, a system in which measurement information from several sensors is combined to form a probability of detection ('328, col. 4, line 25), however each sensor of does not produce a probability signal or estimate, as claimed.

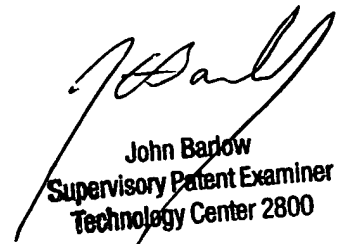
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen J. Cherry whose telephone number is (571) 272-2272. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SJC


John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800